

# RIVERWAYS

*News Notes #3*

**April 7, 2003**

*More Resources and Grants, plus NonPoint Source Projects for River Protection*

Dear River Advocates: In response to popular demand, we are featuring **Resources and Grants** again in this third edition of *Riverways News Notes*. Following that is an article (first appearing in the Spring 2003 *Stream Advocate*, the newsletter of Riverways' *Adopt-A-Stream Program*) on the important role that Stream Teams and others can play in identifying and mitigating nonpoint source pollution getting into our streams and other waterways.

Please let us know if there are any particular topics you'd like us to cover in future editions of *Riverways News Notes*. FYI, this and past editions of *News Notes*, as well as the *Riverways Newsletter*, are posted on-line at <http://www.state.ma.us/dfwele/river/rivnews.htm>.

Wishing you all a Happy Spring (when it finally arrives!) – Joan Kimball.

## Grants

The **Catalog of Federal Funding Sources for Watershed Protection** (<http://www.epa.gov/watershedfunding>), a user-friendly, searchable funding data base of federal grants and loans, is a product of the **U.S. EPA's Office of Water**. Grants to support air, water, solid waste, and other media are included. This is a very powerful on-line tool that can help watershed associations, land trusts and others (including businesses and individual landowners) quickly find relevant funding programs, the level of funding available, average size of grant or loan, contact information, and other useful data. Please feel free to contact Tim Jones at (202) 566-1245 if you have any comments or questions.

**Gulf of Maine Action Grants - The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment** is requesting applications for Action Grants (formerly called Implementation Grants). These grants fund local initiatives in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia that support the Council's priority goals of protecting and restoring coastal and marine habitat, protecting human health and ecosystem integrity, and encouraging sustainable maritime activities. The Gulf of Maine watershed extends from Nantucket, Massachusetts to Cape Sable, Nova Scotia, and includes all lands that are part of coastal watersheds. Grant awards range from \$1,000 to

\$10,000. Applications from nonprofit organizations supporting volunteer stewardship programs (such as **Stream Teams**) are especially welcome; municipalities are also eligible. Applications must be postmarked by **May 10**. See [http://www.gulfofmaine.org/rfp\\_action\\_grants\\_2003.htm](http://www.gulfofmaine.org/rfp_action_grants_2003.htm) for the grant announcement.

The **Fuller Foundation** (<http://www.fullerfoundation.org/>, (603) 964-6998)'s area of focus in Massachusetts is within the Route 128 loop. The foundation's programmatic focus for the environment is: *Wildlife, Endangered Species - their Environment*; and *Animals Helping People Program*. The next application **deadline for proposals is June 15, 2003** for projects that: "educate the public on wildlife and the adverse affects of encroachment on its habitat; support shelters, animal hospitals, animal habitats, and programs that insure a healthy wildlife population; protect endangered species, their environment and habitat from extinction or unnecessary human encroachment; and support programs which improve people's lives by interaction with animals. Minimum grant size usually \$7500.00.

Discretionary Grants made by the **Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts** (413) 732-2858, (<http://www.communityfoundation.org/>) are, in general, made in the areas of the arts, education, health, human services, housing and the environment. The Community Foundation also encourages creative and collaborative responses to existing or emerging problems or opportunities, and projects that leverage additional support for programs from other private and public funding sources." Now soliciting proposals for Hampden and Franklin Counties; the next submission deadline is May 1, 2003.

The **Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation** (<http://www.berkshiretaconic.org/>)'s **James and Robert Hardman Fund**, making grants to non-profit organizations serving North Adams, Clarksburg, Florida, MA and Stamford, VT supporting the arts, culture, historic preservation, health, human and social services, education and the environment, has an upcoming **deadline of May 1 at 5:00 p.m.** For more information, contact Maeve O'Dea, Program Officer, at (800) 969-2823.

The **Amelia Peabody Charitable Fund's Environment Program** supports land acquisition. The Fund will consider projects throughout New England but has a preference for those in Massachusetts, particularly in the Boston area. Submission deadlines for proposals are: February 1, **June 1**, and October 1. For more information and copy of grant guidelines, contact Jo Anne Borek, Executive Director, Amelia Peabody Charitable Fund, 10 Post Office Square, Suite 995, Boston, MA 02109-4603 or call (617) 451-6178.

The **Associated Grantmakers Directory 2003** includes profiles on over 300 foundations and corporate giving programs and provides the most accurate data available on the majority of Massachusetts-based foundations with annual giving in excess of \$150,000. Special features include

Geographic Focus and Interest sections, written in the grant makers' own words. The Directory includes multiple, quick-reference indices, AGM's Common Proposal Form, and AGM's Common Report Form. The Directory costs \$100 (\$60 for AGM members and partners) and you can print out an order form on-line at <http://www.agmconnect.org/gmorderform.pdf>. We also have a copy of the 2003 AGM Directory at the Mass. Riverways Programs' office in Boston which you are welcome to look through; call Eileen Goldberg at (617) 626-1546 to arrange a mutually convenient time.

## On-line Resources

### ECHO (Enforcement and Compliance History On-line)

<http://www.epa.gov/echo/>

EPA's ECHO website allows you to search for facilities in your community for the purpose of determining whether EPA or State/local governments have conducted compliance inspections violations were detected, or enforcement actions were taken and penalties were assessed in response to environmental law violations. After performing your search, you will receive summary data about each facility meeting your search criteria. From this list of facilities, click to access EPA's Detailed Facility Report to find out more. The data is updated frequently. (FYI – as one might expect, much of the data presented here is quite technical in nature. Feel free to contact Cindy Delpapa (617-626-1545, [Cynthia.delpapa@state.ma.us](mailto:Cynthia.delpapa@state.ma.us)), Riverways' technical expert on water quality issues, if you need help in deciphering the ECHO information.)

### Environmental License Plates

<http://www.state.ma.us/rmv/express/plates.htm>

Although there are now eight different types of special Massachusetts license plates, where a portion of the purchase price goes to fund various causes ranging from childhood cancer treatment to supporting future Olympic athletes, only three of the special plates devote their proceeds to environmental causes. The “**Right Whale**” (RW or RT), “**Fish and Wildlife**” (FW) and the “**Blackstone Valley**” (BV) license plates support the work and grant programs of the **Massachusetts Environmental Trust** (<http://www.massenvironmentaltrust.org/>). Originally established with proceeds of a legal settlement relating to the cleanup of Boston Harbor, the Trust's mission is to fund and coordinate projects that encourage cooperative and grassroots efforts to raise environmental awareness and support innovative approaches that can protect and restore our natural resources, with a **special focus on water** and related resources of the Commonwealth. You can show your support for preserving Massachusetts's environment by ordering one of these special environmental plates on-line through the Registry website link provided above, or by purchasing one in person at any of the Registry's more than two dozen branch offices located throughout the Commonwealth. Initial registration and subsequent renewals of the three special environmental license plates cost \$76, \$40 of which is a tax-deductible contribution to the Mass. Environmental

Trust.

## MassOutdoors

<http://www.sport.state.ma.us/>

As you (may) know, the Commonwealth recently upgraded and automated many of its sporting license and boat and other registration purchase/renewal procedures, and many of these transactions can now be securely conducted from the convenience of your home computer. Save yourself some time and buy a Fishing License or Boat Registration renewal On-line. License fees support inland and marine fisheries research and management, wildlife restoration programs, land conservation efforts, and environmental law enforcement.

## Earth Tones – The Environmental Phone Company

<http://www.earthtones.com/>

Owned and operated by nonprofit environmental organizations (such as the Boston-based **MassPIRG**, **Toxics Action Center** and the **National Environmental Law Center**) since 1993, **Earth Tones** ((888)-327-8486) was created with the sole mission to raise funds for the environmental movement while providing high-quality long distance service to customers. Rates are equivalent to (if not cheaper than) other long-distance carriers, plus 100% of profits support environmental causes. Each monthly bill also informs customers about and provides an opportunity to take immediate action on a pressing environmental issue. (FYI: **Riverways** uses **Earth Tones** for its long-distance phone and calling card service, and we have been very happy with it.)

## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), New England District

<http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/>

The ACOE's New England website provides detailed and (reasonably) up-to-date descriptions of the agency's past and ongoing work in this region. Particularly informative are the quarterly State Update Reports (click under "What's News"). The most recent Mass. State Update Report (1/31/03) includes write-ups on the following river-related projects in Massachusetts the ACOE is involved with: the **Sudbury/Assabet/Concord Rivers Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) Study** (p.5); the **Connecticut Watershed Wetlands Restoration Study** (p.6); the **G.E./Housatonic River PCB Cleanup** (p.11); the remediation of the **U.S. Army Materials Technology Laboratory** property along the **Charles River** in Watertown (p.14); the **Blackstone River Feasibility Study** (p.24); the **Muddy River** (p.25), the **Neponset River** (p.26), the **Deerfield and Merrimack Rivers** (p.27), the **Aberjona River** (p.28) and an update of current activities at ACOE flood control projects, such as the recent construction of a bridge over the **Quinebaug River** at the ACOE's Westville Lake facility as part of the **Grand Trunk Trail Project** (p.23). The "What's Hot" section of the website includes info on the **Malden River Ecosystem Restoration Study**, an informative fact sheet entitled "*Did You Know? . . . Healthy Wetlands Devour Mosquitoes*", and details on ACOE-owned and/or managed recreational facilities, as well as current water conditions and streamflow levels and the annual schedule of recreational water releases from ACOE facilities.

## **Mass. Executive Office of Environmental Affairs' Community Preservation Home Page**

<http://commpres.env.state.ma.us/NewsLetter/e-Letter.asp?FileName=March03.htm>

EOEA's information-rich Community Preservation web page now includes a **Plans, Bylaws, and Ordinances Inventory**. This feature is designed to be an ongoing catalogue of community planning techniques in each town and city in the Commonwealth. For each community, the database includes resource and zoning maps, bylaws and other ordinances, "build-out" analyses, and other information.

## **Massachusetts Native Plants Committee (MNPC)**

<http://www.massforesters.org/mnpc.htm>

The MNPC is an ad hoc, voluntary association of botanists, landscape professionals, state and federal agency staff, and plant growers formed to share a common commitment to promoting better understanding of native plant values and issues in Massachusetts. The Committee meets more or less quarterly to share updates on ongoing and proposed projects that promote native plants. These projects include the publication and maintenance of various lists that may be of interest to native plant seekers, including a list of native plants that will meet landscaping habitat requirements (that might otherwise be filled with exotic and/or invasive plants) and a list of growers and nurseries that specialize in whole or in part in growing native plants. These lists and others will be maintained on this site.

## **Publications**

**Dams** have long been familiar features of the American landscape, an integral part of the infrastructure that contributes to (and, in some cases, detracts from) the nation's economic and social well-being. Widespread interest in dam removal, however, is a recent development, spurred by the aging of many dams, by evolving societal values, and by new scientific understanding of the changes brought about by dams. Property owners, public utilities, state and local government officials, and private citizens are faced with difficult and complex decisions, and they need guidance as they attempt to incorporate scientific information into the decision-making process.

*Dam Removal: Science and Decision Making*, a new report from **The Heinz Center** [http://www.heinzctr.org/Programs/SOCW/dam\\_removal.htm](http://www.heinzctr.org/Programs/SOCW/dam_removal.htm), is a first step toward filling this need. *Dam Removal* is the result of 18 months of research and deliberation by a panel of experts with experience in government, industry, academia, and environmental organizations. Focusing on the nation's small dams, the report outlines the current state of research on and experience with dam removal. It is a primer for dam removal decision makers, recounting lessons learned from previous dam removals and providing a step-by-step design for informed and responsible decision making. The full *Dam Removal* report can be ordered or viewed on-line at <http://www.heinzctr.org/publications.htm#Dam>

[%20Removal](#). For more information contact Sheila David, Project Manager, at [sdavid@heinzctr.org](mailto:sdavid@heinzctr.org).

In June 2000, an invited group of distinguished nonprofit leaders, private entrepreneurs, government policy-makers, and researchers met at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government in Cambridge, Massachusetts, to consider the challenges of "*Conservation in the Internet Age*". With a focus on land use and biodiversity in North America, the group considered the potential environmental impacts over coming decades – both constructive and disruptive – associated with new communications and transportation networks, exemplified by the Internet and "FedEx"-style advanced logistics systems.

Since the time of Thomas Jefferson, new communications and transportation networks have enabled vast changes in how and where Americans live and work. Transcontinental railroads and telegraphs helped to open the west; interstate highways and broadcast television networks paved the way for Americans to migrate to suburbia. In our own day, the Internet and advanced logistics networks are enabling new changes on the landscape – having both disruptive and constructive impacts on our efforts to conserve land and biodiversity. Disruptively, the new networks can be powerful enablers of decentralization, facilitating ongoing rural and metropolitan sprawl. Constructively, the emerging technologies are key to innovations in conservation science, conservation education, conservation advocacy, habitat protection and resource management.

Inspired by that gathering at Harvard in June of 2000, *Conservation in the Internet Age: Threats and Opportunities* offers an innovative, cross-disciplinary perspective on critical changes on the land and in the field of conservation. Chapters one through three provide a general context for the book; chapters four through seven explore the potentially disruptive impacts of the new networks on open space and biodiversity; chapters eight through eleven offer case studies of innovative ways that conservation organizations are using the new networks to pursue their missions; and chapters twelve through fifteen explore how rapid change in the Internet age offers excellent context for landmark conservation initiative. *Conservation in the Internet Age* (300pp. \$30) is available from its publisher, Island Press, at (800) 828-1302 or <http://www.islandpress.org/>. As befitting a book such as this one, it has its own eponymous web page (maintained by the book's editor, James N. Levitt - <http://www.islandpress.org/internetage/index.html>).

The March 2003 issue of **Audubon Magazine**, the superb, more or less monthly flagship publication of the **National Audubon Society** (<http://www.audubon.org/>), contains an excellent and inspiring article ("Passing the Test", <http://magazine.audubon.org/education/education0303.html>) on the value of incorporating locally-focused school environmental protection/restoration programs into the educational curriculum. Focusing on a sixth-grade program called "STREAMS" (Science Teams in Rural Environments for Aquatic Management Studies), the article amply illustrates that not only do local streams and other natural resources benefit; the students'

academic performance is significantly enhanced as well. FYI, the same issue contains an excellent article by Massachusetts-based nature writer Ted Williams (“Salmon Stakes”, <http://magazine.audubon.org/incite/incite0303.html>) on last fall’s massive and tragic salmon fishkill in the Klamath River caused by the Bush Administration’s failure to support fishery biologists’ streamflow recommendations, bowing instead to political pressure to allocate the water to upstream irrigators instead.

Last but not least, *River Currents*, *The Weekly Newsletter for the River Community*, put out by **American Rivers**, is a highly informative publication that provides up-to-date news on river-related issues. The 4/4/03 issue of *River Currents* features an article entitled “*What’s a protected river worth?*” documenting the economic value of federal Wild and Scenic River designation, using the **Farmington River** in Connecticut as a case study. You can sign up for *River Currents* at <http://www.amrivers.org/feature/welcome.htm> and/or learn more details on the economic value study of the Farmington Wild and Scenic River designation at <http://www.amrivers.org/pressrelease/farmington040303.htm>.

## Calendar

**Riverways’ River Restore Program** invites you all to join them and the other members of the **Yokum Brook Partners** to a **Celebration** of the restoration of a free-flowing section of the brook on **April 24, 2003 at 10:30 AM** in Becket. Please contact Karen Peltó at (617) 626-1542 or [karen.pelto@state.ma.us](mailto:karen.pelto@state.ma.us) for more information.

The **SuAsCo/Shawsheen Conservation Commission Networks** is sponsoring a program on **April 29** entitled “*How Commissions Can Encourage Ecological Landscaping by Homeowners and Developers*” presented by Peter Phippen, Eight Towns and the Bay Coordinator, Merrimack Planning Commission; Kathryn Glenn, Assistant Regional Coordinator, CZM; Annette Masi, Environmental Landscape Consultant. The program will take place from 9:15 AM to 11:30 AM at the Natural Resources Building, 141 Keyes Rd, Concord. For more information, contact Gillian Davies, DEP Northeast Circuit Rider at (978) 661-7812.

**River Visions 2003:** the **Sixth Annual SuAsCo Watershed Forum** will take place from 5:00PM to 9:30PM on **May 1<sup>st</sup>** at the Intel Corporation in Hudson. Keynote speaker will be Doug Foy, Chief of Commonwealth Development. The forum also includes a “state of the watershed” panel, concurrent workshops, award ceremony, exhibitor tables, and dinner. There is a registration fee of \$25. To pre-register (by April 25) or for more information, please contact Nancy Bryant at the SuAsCo Watershed Community Council at (978) 461-0735.

Despite staff and budget cutbacks, the annual **Massachusetts Biodiversity Days** (<http://data.massgis.state.ma.us/Biodiversity/BiodiversityDays.htm>) event continues; in fact for 2003 the event

will take place over a longer period, from **Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>** to **Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>**. Prospective walk leaders and participants are encouraged to visit the Biodiversity Days web page to find out how and where to take part in this event. For more information, contact Cindy Cormier at the EOEa at [Cynthia.Cormier@state.ma.us](mailto:Cynthia.Cormier@state.ma.us) or (617) 626-1116.

**Foundations of Urban Ecology** is the name of a summer institute to be held in the week of **July 7-11, 2003** and sponsored by the **Urban Ecology Institute at Boston College**. Many of the sessions are specifically river-focused, including *Ecological Perspectives in the Charles, Mystic and Neponset Watersheds*; *Hydrology and Management of Urban Waterways*; and *Mill Creek Restoration*. More information/registration forms can be downloaded from <http://www.urbaneco.org/> or by calling (617) 552-6842.

*Reminder:* There's still time to submit your river-related events for inclusion in the **2003 Massachusetts Rivers Month Calendar**, covering events taking place from **May 10 to July 6**. Event forms are posted on-line at <http://www.massriverways.org/> if you need them. Try to submit your information to us by **April 25<sup>th</sup>** if possible. Call Eileen Goldberg at (617) 626-1546 for more information.

And now, this issue's feature article:

### **NonPoint Source Projects for River Protection**

To view the entire Stream Advocate see [Adopt-A-Stream publications](#)

The Adopt-A-Stream Program invites Stream Teams to partner with communities and work on stormwater issues and projects. Stormwater represents a significant threat to local waterways because it carries with it pollution from various land uses and its considerable volume impacts sensitive stream systems by disrupting natural flow patterns. Stream Teams can work to improve the health of local waterways by first reducing the amount of water that enters the stormwater system and secondly by cleaning up everyday practices that contribute pollution to stormwater runoff.

Rain water falling on impervious surfaces such as driveways and sidewalks is not absorbed into ground but instead picks up sediment and pollutants as it runs down paved surfaces into stormdrains and ultimately into our local rivers and streams. The impact is two fold; pollutant levels increase while degrading water quality and habitat, and less water infiltrates into groundwater reducing natural river flows.

In initial surveys most Stream Teams identified specific areas with stormwater and nonpoint source problems. For those Stream Teams who choose to work on stormwater problems, groups can either assess the action plans and find remediation projects or conduct followup surveys to identify non-point source pollution. We recommend Stream Teams choose projects based on low-impact development designs that treat rainwater where it falls by allowing for greater infiltration and storage.

In addition, one of the major benefits of these projects is that they can be used to educate the public and the municipality about the techniques and ease of implementation, as well as the large benefits and low costs of such solutions. Stream Teams can be an important catalyst for achieving better stream health. The Adopt-A-Stream program highlights the following projects as ones that can be readily done by all Stream Teams. By instituting these programs, Stream Teams will begin to change the way people think about stormwater and improve the health of our streams. *Adopt-A-Stream staff are available to help with project planning, review, facilitation and finding sources of funding.*

### *Projects to Reduce Stormwater*

Reducing stormwater runoff will prevent deterioration of water quality and habitat and increase ground water recharge. Experts in the field have developed many innovative stormwater reduction methods that can be adapted easily and inexpensively in many situations. Stream Teams can partner with Planning Boards or DPWs to start implementing new ways of dealing with stormwater. Successful partnering could work to reduce unnecessary impervious areas (paved areas) and substitute pervious areas (porous pavement, gravel, vegetation). Stream Teams can encourage DPWs to replace concrete swales with water quality improving grass channels or concave vegetated areas.

### **Rain Barrel Demonstration Project**

By storing rainwater, rain barrels reduce runoff from down spouts— and decrease water demand on rivers and reservoirs during the hot summer months. Collecting roof runoff means less stormwater will be going directly into the municipal stormdrain system. Rainwater tends to have fewer sediments and dissolved minerals than municipal water and is therefore ideal for vegetable gardens, flower beds, houseplants, car washing, and cleaning windows. Reducing the use of municipal water will also save homeowners money. A good formula to remember: 1 inch of rain on a 1000 sq ft roof yields 623 gallons of water. Multiply that times the average of 40 inches of rain per year in Massachusetts, and that, with enough rain barrels, could add up to 25,000 gallons of water per year. Stream Team rain barrel projects can be as simple as conducting a single demonstration project in a central location and ensuring that a supply of rain barrels are available for those who wish to use them.

Purchase rain barrels or retrofit your own from hardware store materials. Select a demonstration spot that is highly visible (town hall, town library, a popular downtown business) and install the rain barrels on one or more gutter downspouts. Use educational signage to demonstrate the amount of water saved, how it can be used and the benefits. Provide designs for how to create a rain barrel from store-bought materials, or a list of retailers. Educate the local garden center or hardware store about the use of rain barrels. Once it catches on, they will want to be the ones supplying the materials!

### **Rain Garden Demonstration Project**

Rain gardens divert water from traditional stormdrains into a larger garden area to allow water to be

absorbed by plants and naturally infiltrate back into groundwater supplies, reducing the volume of water and pollutants to stormdrains. The Great Barrington Land Conservancy installed a rain garden at the entrance to the Housatonic River Walk, planted with native species. The rain garden also includes a retention basin that provides runoff control from nearby roads and parking lots by storing water in a shallow pool. Education material informs the public about how natural systems like wetlands help to clean stormwater and protect the river from contaminated runoff.

## **River Buffer Planting**

Vegetated buffers reduce runoff, offer erosion control and greater infiltration of stormwater. Buffers can be easily planted in small areas by homeowners and in larger community lots and parks. The Manchester Stream Team, with the assistance of Salem Sound Coastwatch and the town, received a Riverways Small Grant to improve an area of riparian buffer with native plantings, clearing it of invasive species. Volunteers planted over 100 trees, shrubs and wildflowers at the site. Native plants such as sugar maple, silky dogwood, blueberry, winterberry, elderberry, sweet fern and cardinal flower were chosen because they fit the site conditions, provide food value for wildlife and would eventually shade the stream to enhance smelt habitat. To begin working on a similar project, find either a public or a private site and gain permission from the land owner. Work with your local Conservation Commission as you plan the project. Approval from the Conservation Commission is needed for specific site plans to work in the riparian area. Consider the site conditions such as sun/shade, soils and amount of flooding or saturation. Groups can obtain a list of suitable plants from the Riverways Programs. Recruit volunteers and publicize the project through the local media describing the positive impacts on the stream.

## *Stormwater Education Projects*

Stream Teams may chose to work on education projects; here are a few they can consider: developing educational campaigns such as displays, fact sheets and fliers on the problem of stormwater; conducting a stormdrain stenciling awareness project; alerting the community through specific waste awareness and prevention campaigns; creating a river friendly certification program.

## **Stormdrain Stenciling: Connecticut Watershed Storm Drain Stenciling Pilot Program**

Through storm drain stenciling, communities label storm drains with a simple message that reminds passersby that storm drains connect to local water bodies and that dumps pollutants into those waters. In addition, storm drain education messages educate residents and community members about the impacts of non-point source pollution on local water bodies. Every time it rains, water washes litter, motor oil, anti-freeze, pet wastes, excess fertilizers and pesticides, leaves, grass clippings and other waste materials into storm drains. Most storm drains carry the contaminated rainwater directly to local streams, rivers, lakes and ponds.

As part of the NPDES Phase II Stormwater Program (*see sidebar*), cities and towns must enact a by-law or ordinance making it illegal to dump material into the stormdrain system. Towns must also

identify sources of illicit discharges to the system and monitor stormdrain outfalls. Storm drain stenciling programs will be an important part of local management and will encourage participation in Shoreline Surveys and Stream Team activities.

To help address the problem of storm water runoff and nonpoint source pollution, the Connecticut River Watershed Team funded a project in FY '02 through the Riverways Programs to conduct stormdrain stenciling and outreach throughout the Connecticut River Watershed. The Connecticut River Stormdrain Education Coordinator Carrie Banks launched several pilot projects. For each project, local organizers including Conservation Commissions, Departments of Public Works (DPWs), Eagle Scouts, college students and local residents partnered to organize stormdrain education activities. Carrie also developed a toolkit called the Stormdrain Education Notebook that includes outreach materials, fact sheets, background and other materials municipalities and civic organizations can use to implement a storm drain-stenciling program in their local community. As a result of Carrie's efforts, the Franklin, Hampshire, Hampden Conservation Districts applied for funds through the Northeast Utilities Environmental Community Grant to reproduce the toolkit and to distribute it to all of the communities in the Connecticut River Watershed.

If you would like more information or a digital copy of the Storm Drain Education Notebook, contact the Adopt-A-Stream Program 617-626-1549 or see our website at <http://www.massriverways.org/>.

### **Pet Waste Education and Cleanup Campaign**

Are there spots in your watershed or along your river or stream that seem to accumulate dog waste? Dog waste can be a serious threat to the health of the local stream by introducing nutrients, bacteria and other pathogens into the water system. This is especially dangerous in drinking water protection areas. Several Stream Team Action Plans have identified pet waste areas as particular problems. By providing pet waste bags and disposal containers to dog walkers, less waste will be left on the ground where it can contaminate local waterways. Including educational material near the container will let pet owners know about the hazards of leaving pet waste to wash into the stormdrain system.

Pet waste bag dispensers can be purchased or created. New products like lumber made of recycled plastic make good materials for building dispenser boxes. Work with the local High School shop classes to start this as a community service project. Purchase bags and place the dispensers in high volume spots around town (at parks, walking trails, picnic areas etc.). Add educational material to the dispensing boxes about the danger pet waste poses to stream health.

### **Car Care and Motor Oil Recycling Education Campaign**

Many car maintenance and car care products such as motor oil, antifreeze, cleaners and waxes contain toxic chemicals that can contaminate streams and other surface and ground water. Far too many people do not understand the environmental hazard of dumping care waste onto the ground or

into a storm drain. A 1993 EPA survey revealed that 35% of Providence, Rhode Island residents are do-it-yourselfers and of those, 30% dumped car waste in their back yards, 7% poured it down storm drains, and 5% poured it onto roads. Of people in Massachusetts who change their own anti-freeze, 54% reported that they flush their radiators onto the ground.

*Education examples:*

Involve retailers of motor oil in promoting recycling and proper disposal of used oil. Create a brochure and list of local oil recycling locations and produce a display for stores where motor oil is sold. Train the store employees to give out educational material to everyone who buys oil or anti-freeze. Have retailers provide coupons for buying oil disposal containers. Involve schools in promoting oil disposal containers to make it easier to change oil safely. Have students market and sell the containers. Involve vocational schools and auto mechanic classes in education about proper car care and disposal.

**For more information on any of these projects and for assistance with implementing projects please call the Adopt-A-Stream Program at 617-626-1549 or write [Rachel.calabro@state.ma.us](mailto:Rachel.calabro@state.ma.us).**

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**Mass. Riverways Programs – Riverways News Notes #3**

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